

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 17 of 1875.]

## REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 24th April 1875.

THE *Hindu Ranjiká* of the 14th April states that the inhabitants of Rajshahye are sorry at the prospect of losing the services of Baboo Bhúdeb Mookerjee, the able inspector of schools, owing to his transfer to Hooghly. The editor urges on the public the desirability of voting an "address" to the Baboo, conveying their thanks, and their sense of his meritorious services in connection with education. Though an address, it is remarked, may appear needless in the case of a public officer, who has simply performed his duty, still the necessity of such an appreciative demonstration becomes clearly felt, when we see that English officers are often honored in this way; and its absence, in the case of a native, may be regarded as arguing a want of sympathy, in the class which he represents. The step proposed is the more needed, in order to prevent the possibility of any of our rulers inferring, from our silence, that native officials are not liked by the people, and consequently should not be appointed to any high positions in the State.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,  
April 14th, 1875.

2. The *Bishwa Dút* of the 14th April complains of the incorrect Bengali used by omlahs in the courts. Documents are generally written in an illegible hand; and the vocabulary is made up of Persian, English, and Bengali words, all misspelt. This state of things might be remedied, if the educated native judicial officers would direct their attention to the matter; but they are sadly indifferent to the interests of the vernacular. It is a pity that while the correspondence and other office work connected with the courts are correctly carried on in English, gross errors of orthography and syntax should continue to prevail in those in the vernacular. The evil calls for speedy correction. The illiterate and corrupt omlahs should give place to well educated and honest men brought up in Normal schools, and who are now obliged to earn their livelihood by doing the ill-paid work of pundits.

BISHWA DUT.  
April 14th, 1875.

BURRISAL  
BARTABAHA.

3. In an editorial of considerable length, the *Samáj Darpan*, of the 15th April, attributes the prevalence of corruption among the omlahs to the fact that they are extremely ill-paid; and that, owing to their desire of living in a style suitable to their position in society, they are obliged to take bribes. To remove this evil, Government should increase their pay. Such a measure will not necessarily put the State to any additional expense; for slight reductions made in the high salaries, given to the chief English officials, may go to meet this fresh expenditure.

SAMAJ DARPAN,  
April 15th, 1875.

4. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká* of the 15th April has the following, which we extract from a long article headed "Why are such large preparations made?" Not content with maintaining a well-disciplined and well-equipped army for the government of this empire, with passing the Mutiny Act and the new Criminal Procedure Code, the rulers are gradually drawing the leading

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.  
April 15th, 1875.

journals over to their side. It is known, as a reproach to Government, that both the *Pioneer* and the *Bombay Gazette* are its organs; the *Education Gazette* is mainly supported by it. Sir George Campbell, again, is said to have gained over some papers to his cause by appointing Mr. Knight to Government service. By resorting to such a measure, Government has recently won over a few native papers, and indirectly the *Friend of India* and the *Indian Observer*. We do not, however, see the need for making such great efforts for the purpose of ruling a weak nation like ourselves. Possibly one of the following opinions may have led to this step:—Either, like Fenians, we are thought to have become extremely disloyal; or public opinion has grown so strong that, to enable Government to maintain its despotic sway, the exertion of greater strength is supposed to have become necessary. We do not believe that, regarded loyal at a time when the English rule had not yet been firmly and fully established in the country, when natives had not yet been disarmed, and war-like men might be found in almost every village, when robbers infested the country, and neither the police nor the criminal law was so severe in its operation, when the number of English troops was far smaller than at present, and when there was no railway or telegraph, we shall now, with all these, be branded with disloyalty. But the people have indeed learned to speak out; they have understood their rights, and Government can no longer pursue its arbitrary course undisputed. If it be really a fact, however, that, owing to our growing strength, the English do not think themselves safe, even with all their laws and troops, this fact should rather redound to their glory than furnish matter for anxiety; for the main object of their coming into this country would thus seem to have been in a great measure secured. They have all along said that the English rule in India is designed only for the good of the natives; instead therefore, of being displeased with a free and frank expression of opinion, the rulers should rather foster and encourage it. If the people have learnt to form an opinion, it has been owing to the English, and is one of the beneficial effects of the English rule.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
April 16th, 1875.

5. In a review of the last year (1281 B.S.), the *Education Gazette* of the 16th April, writes the following under the head of "Social Progress":—With the progress of education, some advance was slowly and silently made in social matters. The cloth-mills established in Bombay have, during the year under review, increased both in number and successfulness, a fact which filled the merchants of Manchester with great apprehension and led them to seek opportunities of injuring the cloth industry of India. They have sought to procure the abolition of the duty on imported cloth, and the enactment of a law limiting the working hours of the factory people. Had their efforts in this direction proceeded entirely from disinterested motives—nay, had the merchants not sought to hamper the industry of the country in this way, they would doubtless have long since found indications of the gratitude of Indians. But as it is, when the spirit of enterprize has been once awakened, nothing can put it down.

HALISHAHAR AND  
SEARSOLE PATRIKA,  
April 16th, 1875.

6. In a long editorial on the "Sonthal Pergunnahs," the *Halishahar and Searsole Patriká* of the 16th April complains of the arbitrary proceedings of the settlement officers in reference to the measurement of land. They have set up most arbitrary standards, and are causing much inconvenience and loss to the zemindars possessing land there.

BHARAT  
SANGSKARAK,  
April 16th, 1875.

7. In a review of the last year (1281 B.S.) the *Bhárat Sangskárák* of the 16th April, after thanking Government for its successful endeavours to

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suppress the late famine, and the sympathy and the liberal views of Lord Northbrook and Sir Richard Temple in respect to natives generally, observes the following under the head of "Press":—The number of newspapers has gradually increased. Sir George Campbell endeavoured to deprive the native press of its liberty, and his efforts have resulted in the discontinuance to editors of the Bengali Translator's weekly reports. This act has been extremely illiberal, and unworthy of a civilized Government.

8. The *Hindu Hitoishini* of the 17th April dwells with gratification, in an article of considerable length, on the chief administrative acts of Sir Richard Temple; and remarks that his sympathy is gradually endearing him to the people. He loves the natives, and courts their acquaintance. No ruler before him ever had such courage and great heartedness in his dealings with them. It is not the desire of gaining popularity alone, that has led to invitations to evening parties at Belvedere, and river excursions on the *Rhotas*—he teaches loyalty in this way. Simultaneously with these acts of sympathy towards natives, he is engaged in devising and carrying out several beneficent measures.

HINDU HITOISHINI,  
April 17th, 1875.

9. The *Dacca Prakásh* of the 18th April remarks, in the course of a long article reviewing the events of the year (1281 B.S.) just ended, that during the year under review the tenantry in not a few places rebelled against the rights and authority of the zemindars. This was, no doubt, owing either to the undue partiality shown to the former by our Government, or to their comparative affluence. Pubna, Serajunge, and Dacca have all been the scenes of agrarian riots. The same writer, in adverting to the discontinuance of the weekly reports on native papers to editors, remarks that it is greatly to be deplored, and arises from an unbecoming parsimoniousness of the authorities, or, which is more probable, from the fact that the circulation of the reports seriously interfered with the arbitrary actions of some of the provincial Government officers.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
April 18th, 1875.

10. The *Sádháraní* of the 18th April advises Government not to engage in a Burmese war, if such a measure be really in contemplation. With Russia steadily advancing on the west, the unsatisfactory state of affairs at Baroda, and the questionable loyalty of Scindia, it is not advisable for the Government to court a new war on its eastern frontier; and with an enemy certainly not to be despised as a weak nation, like the Bengalis.

SÁDHÁRANI,  
April 18th, 1875.

11. In the course of a lengthy review of the events of the year (1281 B.S.) just ended, the *Som Prakásh* of the 19th April has some highly eulogistic observations on Lord Northbrook, Sir George Campbell, and Sir Richard Temple, for their vigorous and successful efforts to suppress the recent famine. Further on, he remarks, on the policy of Lord Northbrook in connection with the allied native princes, that His Excellency has not been, as in other respects, able to gain popularity and reputation. His action in respect to Baroda has inspired the allied native chiefs with fear; and princes, that had never been to Calcutta before, came last year to win favour with him. If their visits to the metropolis had been the result of love, the policy of Lord Northbrook might have been approved and applauded; but fear was the motive, and fear of losing their independence was what led them to seek to propitiate him.

SOM PRAKASH,  
April 19th, 1875.

12. The *Sahachar* of the 19th April dwells on the necessity, on the part of Government, of appointing a special commission to inquire into the oppressions of the indigo planters, which have frightfully increased in Behar. The poor ryots do not obtain sufficient redress of their wrongs at the hands of the police and the magistrates. It is high time that the subject were seriously

SAHACHAR,  
April 19th, 1875.

considered. The employment of European capital has not in the least benefited the country, though it has made the foreigners rich at the expense of the natives. The truth of this observation is well illustrated in the indigo districts.

SAPTAHÍK SAMÁCHÁR,  
April 20th, 1875.

13. The *Sáptáhík Samáchár* of the 20th April, in an article headed the "Non-appearance of witnesses in Court," after endorsing the views of the *Dacca Prakásh* of the 11th April, as to the causes of the fact, remarks, that if the High Court were, as is proposed, to treat them thus hardly, the only consequence would be, that respectable and truthful witnesses would be very rarely found, and the only evidence procurable would be that of perjurors, who are always ready and willing to be summoned as witnesses for a small consideration. The administration of justice would be greatly demoralized. There are a number of circumstances which account for the extreme unwillingness manifested by respectable natives to appear as witnesses. We will merely mention a few of them—(1) The irascible temper of many of the judges, which leads them to insult witnesses by rude words; (2) the improper and irrelevant system of cross-examination that obtains in the courts, and which chiefly aims at throwing discredit on the character of witnesses; (3) the miserable furniture of the houses where the courts are held. There is no accommodation suitable for gentlemen.

SAMÁCHÁR,  
CHANDRIKA.  
April 19th, 1875.

14. The *Samáchár Chandriká* of the 19th April directs the attention of the authorities to the corruption prevailing among the subordinate officers in the Calcutta Custom House, and subjecting the public to great inconvenience and loss. It is impossible to obtain a pass for receiving or delivering any goods, without making a number of payments, as gratifications to these men. Those that refuse to pay are continually put off, till, for loss of time, they are obliged to comply with the demands made. The evil should be promptly and in a private manner inquired into and remedied.

URDU GUIDE,  
April 17th, 1875.

15. An anonymous correspondent writes to the *Urdu Guide* from Darbhanga, under date the 4th April, with reference to the petition lately forwarded to the local Government, praying, for various reasons, that the business of the Civil Court be transacted as hitherto at Mozufferpore, whilst the Collectorate and the Foujdari Court may be located at Darbhanga: also that Sirsa be made subordinate to Mozufferpore. This correspondent says that the division already made by the Lieutenant-Governor is the best one, conducing, as it does, to the comfort of all the ryots and the speedy administration of justice. With reference to Sirsa, he remarks that the railway has now connected it more closely with Darbhanga, with which it should be rightly incorporated. Finally, he attributes the drawing up of the above petition to the self-interest of some of the high Bengali vakeels, who induced the ignorant public there to sign it.

URDU GUIDE.

16. With reference to the holding of the Lieutenant-Governor's *durbár* at Behea, the editor of this paper says that the nobles and others, invited thither, must of necessity experience great inconvenience from a want of proper accommodation, there being only one suitable house available, which formerly belonged to the rebel Kooer Singh. The editor recommends, that in holding future *durbárs* in the mofussil, the Commissioner of the division should be requested to select a place, in which suitable residences may be secured by those native gentlemen, who are invited to attend them.

URDU GUIDE.

17. A correspondent writing to this paper from Patna, without date, draws attention to the great necessity for introducing the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act into Behár, as frequent cases of divorce and dowry

are occurring there. The petition lately presented for postponement of the Bill was the act of a few special persons and not of the public in general.

18. The *Behár Bandhu* writes in highly eulogistic terms of the great affability and condescension of the Lieutenant-Governor at the recent *durbár*, at which His Honor had a smile and a kind enquiry for all—Rájás or zemindars—who were presented. With reference to the ball, the editor says, the English gentlemen, intoxicated with pleasure, were dancing with the ladies with hands clasped together; so that if the fairies beheld it, they would have been seized with astonishment. Such a ball Patna never knew.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
April 20th, 1875.

19. The editor of the *Utkal Dipika* of the 27th February, advertiring to the replies given by His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, during his late visit to Orissa, to the several prayers embodied in a petition addressed to him, says that it is much to be regretted that His Honor seems to pay little or no attention to the third prayer, for the establishment of entrance classes in the several sub-divisions of Orissa. Orissa can by no means stand on the same par with Bengal; hence special provisions are necessary.

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
February 27th, 1875.

20. The editor of the same journal, of the 6th March, regrets to learn that the minor Rajah of Killahaul insisted on the police officers employed under him practising oppression on some of the inhabitants in a recent case of theft; and the police officers of course did not scruple to obey his orders. Such things no doubt tend to cast reproach and discredit on this Rajah.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

21. The same journal of the 20th March, in an article on "Lord Salisbury and Manchester," observes as follows:—The merchants of Manchester have lately addressed a petition to Lord Salisbury praying him to dispense with the rates levied in India on the cotton traffic carried on by them. He (Lord Salisbury) did not pay any attention to the request, but the Manchester merchants did not fail again to urge on him the necessity of the measure; and it is understood that the Secretary of State has been pleased to lend a willing ear to their solicitation, to the great detriment of the interests of our Indian merchants.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

22. The editor of the *Utkal Putra* of the 24th February advocates the necessity of improving the present status of the Orissa schools.

UTKAL PUTRA,  
February 24th, 1875.

23. The same journal of the 24th February, 1875, in the course of an article on "pensions," gives several reasons showing that the rules, restricting the period of service for pension to the age of 55, are not good, and urges the necessity of altering them so as to adapt them to the physical capacity of the employé. The limit now in force may be extended or reduced, according to the constitutional abilities of the employé.

UTKAL PUTRA.

24. The *Orissa Patriot* of the 16th February, in the course of an article on "Stamps," observes as follows:—A reduction in the rate of stamp duties is urgently called for. If the rate is not lowered, the public will be subjected to extreme inconvenience.

ORISSA PATRIOT,  
February 16th, 1875.

25. The editor of the *Utkal Putra*, of the 7th April, in an article on the advancement of Orissa, dwells at length on the exaggerated statements of the Commissioner of the division, regarding the state of the province, in his last annual report; although Orissa has of late improved, yet not to the extent stated by the Commissioner. The editor regrets to find that many of his statements are exaggerated.

UTKAL PUTRA.  
April 7th, 1875.

26. The same journal of the 1st February earnestly requests the members of the Balasore School Committee and other authorities to give

UTKAL PUTRA.

their immediate attention to the reconstruction of school-houses at Bahediha, Bhograi, &c., which the late cyclone has swept away.

UTKAL PUTRA,  
April 7th, 1875.

27. The same journal of the 16th February requests the higher authorities to sanction the sum, granted by Government for the construction of a normal school-house at Balasore, for want of which the boys as well as the teachers are put to extreme inconvenience.

SAMBAD BAHIKA,  
March 16th, 1875.

28. In its epitome of news, the *Sambad Bahika*, of the 16th March, says that the patshala abadhans are at present put to great inconvenience, owing to their being required to submit their annual returns for 1874-75 in Bengali forms. In previous years, Oriya forms were adopted.

SAMBAD BAHIKA.

29. The editor of the *Sambad Bahika* of the 1st March requests the Magistrate of Balasore to send out more doctors to the cyclone-stricken districts, where an epidemic is violently raging.

SAMBAD BAHIKA.

30. The editor of the same journal of the 1st March recommends the Government to introduce history and geography into the curriculum of the primary schools.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

*The 24th April 1875.*

JOHN ROBINSON,

*Government Bengali Translator.*

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the  
24th April 1875.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Satya Prakásh"	Bánáripárá, Burrisal	Bi-monthly	First Fortnight of Choitra 1281 B.S.
2	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Bauleah, Rájsháhye	Weekly	14th April.
3	"Bishwa Dút"	Kálíghát, Calcutta	Ditto	14th ditto.
4	"Burrisal Bártaúha"	Burrisal	Ditto	14th ditto.
5	"Samáj Darpan"	Calcutta	Ditto	15th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Ditto	Ditto	15th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	Ditto	16th ditto.
8	"Bhárat Sangskárák"	Harinávi, 24-Pergunnahs	Ditto	16th ditto.
9	"Hálišahar and Searsole Patriká."	Calcutta	Ditto	16th ditto.
10	"Hindu Hitoishini"	Dacca	Ditto	17th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakásh"	Ditto	Ditto	18th ditto.
12	"Sádháraní"	Chinsurah	Ditto	18th ditto.
13	"Som Prakásh"	Chángripottáh, 24-Per-gunnahs.	Ditto	19th ditto.
14	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	Ditto	19th ditto.
15	"Dút"	Ditto	Ditto	19th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	Ditto	20th ditto.
17	"Sáptáhik Samáchár"	Ditto	Ditto	20th ditto.
18	"Sáptáhik Sambád"	Bhowanipore, Calcutta	Ditto	23rd ditto.
19	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Calcutta	Bi-Weekly	12th, 15th, 19th, and 22nd April.
20	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Ditto	Daily	7th to 15th April.
21	"Sambád Púrnachandro-daya."	Ditto	Ditto	16th to 22nd ditto.
22	"Prabhát Samír"	Ditto	Ditto	17th to 23rd ditto.
23	"Chushmeh-i-ilm" (in Urdu)	Patna	Bi-monthly	16th April.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Calcutta	Weekly	17th ditto.
25	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Patna	Ditto	20th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

W. H.